

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O R 081256Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1918

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USNATO

DIRNSA WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE

CINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

S E C R E T ANKARA 0147

EXDIS

MILITARY ADEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3 INDEFINITE

TAGS: PFOR MASS MARR TU US

SUBJ: TURKISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS: NATO/SOFA EXTENSION

REF: ANKARA 0119 DTG 071305Z JAN 76

1. U.S. TEAM CHAIRMAN GARDNER TOOK ADVANTAGE OF PRIVATE CONVERSATION AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 7 TO PROBE TURKISH TEAM CHAIRMAN ASULA'S THINKING REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF BREAKING IMPASSE ON SOFA COVERAGE. GARDNER ASKED IN PARTICULAR WHETHER EXCHANGE OF NOTES ASULA HAD SUGGESTED REGARDING EXTENSION OF SOFA IMPORT PRIVILEGES TO CIVILIAN COMPONENT

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AND DEPENDENTS (PARA 3 REFTEL) WOULD CONSTITUTE BILATERAL

AGREEMENT AND WHETHER NOTE EXCHANGES ON OTHER SOFA MATTERS COULD BE MADE CONCURRENT WITH GOT ISSUANCE OF CIRCULARS.

2. ASULA EXPLAINED THAT ISSUANCE OF GOT CIRCULARS TO COVER U.S. SOFA NEEDS WAS DESIGNED TO AVOID TAKING MATTER TO CABINET, WHERE, HE INDICATED, KEY OPPOSITION LIES. HE SAID GOT DIPLOMATIC NOTE WOULD SIMPLY CONVEY CONTENT OF CIRCULAR TO USG AND WOULD NOT RPT NOT CONSTITUTE BILATERAL AGREEMENT. NOTES CONSTITUTING BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, HE CONTINUED, PRESENTLY REQUIRE UNANIMOUS ENDORSEMENT OF CABINET, WHICH COULD NOT BE OBTAINED. ASULA ASSURED GARDNER THAT CIRCULARS WOULD BE WORKED OUT WITH USG BEFORE ISSUANCE ALTHOUGH MENTION OF THIS FACT COULD NOT RPT NOT BE MADE IN DEFENSE AGREEMENT. GARDNER NOTED THAT ASULA'S FORMULA DID NOT MEET U.S. REQUIREMENT FOR BILATERAL AGREEMENT ALONG LINES OF THOSE CONCLUDED WITH OTHER NATO PARTNERS.

3. COMMENT: THIS CLEARLY REMAINS HARD CORE ISSUE, WHICH AMBASSADOR PLANS TO TAKE UP WITH SECRETARY GENERAL ELEKDAG. IF TURKS CONTINUE TO REJECT SEPARATE AGREEMENTS TO COVER SOFA EXTENSION, WE INTEND PRESS FOR INCLUSION OF THESE PROVISIONS IN DEFENSE AGREEMENT ANNEX AS MINIMUM. IN MEANTIME WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER THOUGHTS WASHINGTON MIGHT HAVE ON HOW THIS IMPASSE MIGHT BE BROKEN.
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